

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
February 27, 2003**

BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi met in special session at the Nowell Student Union in Cleveland, Mississippi, at 1:55 p.m., and pursuant to notice in writing faxed to each and every member of said Board, said date being at least five days prior to this February 27, 2003 meeting. At the above-named place there were present the following members to wit: Mr. William S. Crawford, Dr. Stacy Davidson, Ms. Ricki R. Garrett, Mr. Bryce Griffis, Mr. Roy Klumb, Dr. Bettye Henderson Neely, Ms. Virginia Shanteau Newton, Mr. Scott Ross, and Ms. Amy Whitten. Mr. Thomas W. Colbert, Dr. D. E. Magee, Jr., and Mr. Carl Nicholson, Jr. were absent and not voting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bryce Griffis, President.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Whitten, with Mr. Colbert, Dr. Magee, and Mr. Nicholson absent and not voting, the Board voted to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session. On motion by Mr. Ross, seconded by Ms. Garrett, with Mr. Colbert, Dr. Magee, and Mr. Nicholson absent and not voting, the Board **voted to go into Executive Session** for the reason later reported by the President in Open Session and stated in these minutes, as follows:

Discussion of the interim president of Delta State University.

Discussion of the Delta State University presidential search process.

On motion by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Dr. Davidson, with Mr. Colbert, Dr. Magee, and Mr. Nicholson absent and not voting, the Board voted to return to Open Session.

On motion by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Dr. Davidson, with Mr. Colbert, Dr. Magee, and Mr. Nicholson absent and not voting, the Board approved Dr. John Thornell as Interim President of Delta State University to be effective on or about March 1, 2003, at a salary of \$175,000 per annum pro rata and to serve until a president has been appointed and assumes the responsibilities of the position.

On motion by Ms. Whitten, seconded by Mr. Crawford, with Mr. Colbert, Dr. Magee, and Mr. Nicholson absent and not voting, the Board approved the following statement concerning the Delta State University Presidential search:

The Board appreciates the Governor's interest in the position of President of Delta State University and respects his decision not to be an applicant for the position. To eliminate any confusion and speculation which might result from recent reports and out of respect for the Governor's decision, the Board of Trustees will not consider the Governor as a candidate during the search process for the President of Delta State University.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Crawford, seconded by Dr. Neely, with Mr. Colbert, Dr. Magee, and Mr. Nicholson absent and not voting, the Board voted to adjourn.

President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning